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Name: Examiner Hung D. Nguyen

Date: February 18, 2010

Company: USPTO

Fax Number: 571-270-8828

Total Pages (including cover): 4

Subject: Appl. No. 10/562,574

Confirmation Copy to Follow: No

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Our File No.: 02886.0095-00000

MESSAGE

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FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES ONLY
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Application No.: 10/562,574
First Named Applicant: Akio Sato

Examiner: Hung D. Nguyen
Group Art Unit: 3742

Tentative Participants:

- (1) Anthony M. Gutowski (2) Hojung Cho
(3) Hung D. Nguyen (4) _____

Proposed Date of Interview: February 19, 2010 **Proposed Time:** 10:00 AM
Type of Interview Requested: Telephonic

INTERVIEW AGENDA

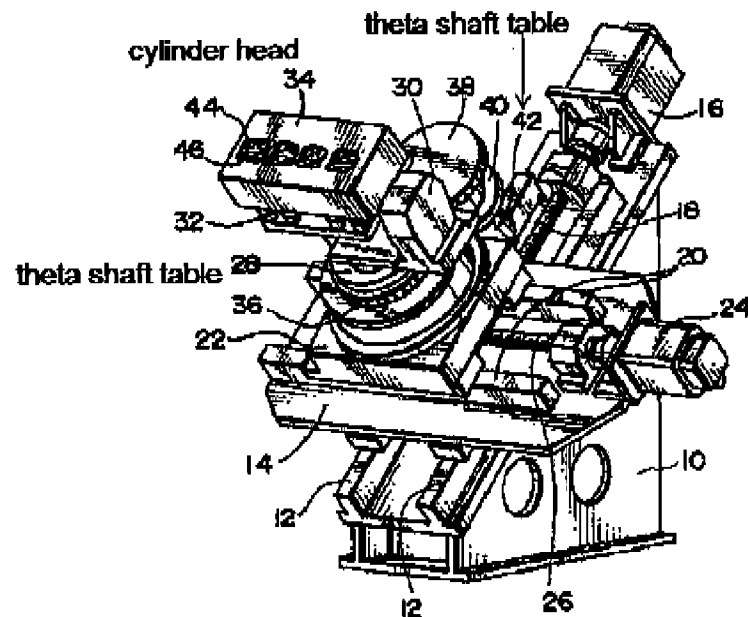
Applicant thanks Examiner Nguyen for agreeing to conduct a telephonic interview regarding the above-identified application during a telephone conference with Applicant's representative on February 11, 2010.

Applicant's representatives propose to discuss the rejection of claims 1 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over JP 09-155583 to Oota et al. ("Oota") in view of DE 19909390 to Nowotny et al. ("Nowotny") in the Office Action dated December 8, 2009 in the following aspects:

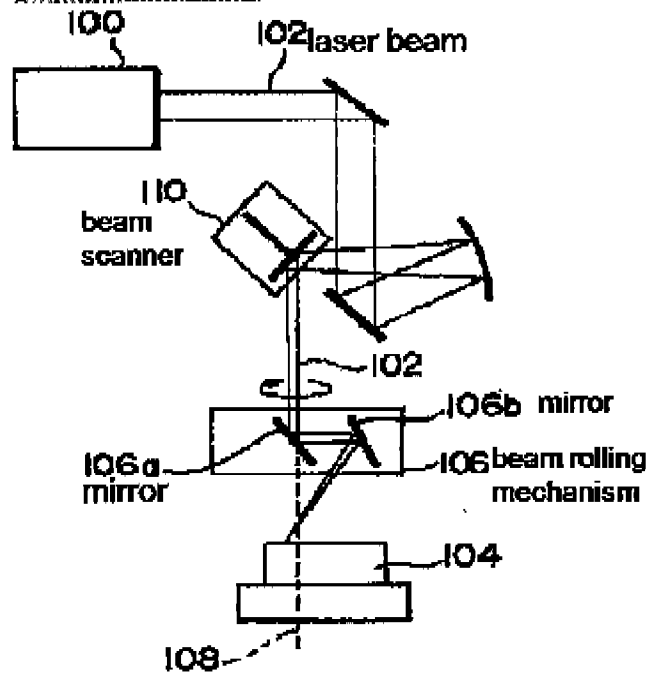
- I. Claim 1 recites, among other things, "a rotator rotating [a] laser-processing head around the central axial line of [a] valve seat portion such that said laser-processing head is inclined with respect to [a] generally vertical line," which is neither disclosed nor suggested in Oota and Nowotny.
 - a. Drawing 1 of Oota instead shows that a cylinder head 34 is mounted on a theta shaft table 28 and is rotated by a theta shaft drive motor 42.
 - b. The proposed combination of Oota's embodiment (Drawing 1) with rotating mirrors 106a and 106b of the prior art apparatus (Drawing 8) would change the principle of operation in Oota.
 - c. Oota teaches away from rotating a laser beam by a rotator in view of paragraph [0005]. Oota at paragraphs [0015], [0034]-[0036] also emphasizes the importance of maintaining a laser beam in a fixed position while rotating a cylinder head, in order to perform laser-clad processing uniformly and precisely.
 - d. The annotated Drawings 1 and 8 are provided below.

Application No. 10/562,574
Attorney Docket No. 02886.0095

[Drawing 1]



[Drawing 8]



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Application No. 10/562,574
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- II. Claim 1 recites, among other things, "[a] nozzle . . . configured to direct [a] powdery material in a direction substantially parallel to [a] central axial line in an equal amount across [a] process part of [a] valve seat portion," which is neither disclosed nor suggested in Oota and Nowotny.
- III. Method claim 6 is not obvious for reasons at least similar to those set forth above for claim 1.

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